



USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

Established July 6, 2002

Newsletter, Summer 2002

At their Third Reunion, held at Pella Iowa, July 4-7, 2002, former crewmembers of the USS BRADLEY (DE/FF1041) established a ship's association. The purpose of this association is to plan future reunions and to bring together, for fellowship, all former crewmembers of the Bradley.

The Third Reunion was held in the quaint midwestern town of Pella, Iowa that celebrates it's Dutch heritage in architecture and cultural events. It's also the home to the Pella Window Corporation and a farm equipment company. The Country Inn and Suites served as reunion headquarters and was the site for many reunion events. Crewmember attendees were: Bruce Gottsch, Kent Grass, Dave Hoskins, Jack "Ripper" Minster, Irwin "Butch" Shattuck, and Mike "Shakey" Wiseman with a visit by Ernie Scheiffers. Attendees were sorry that others who had planned on attending found they were unable to make the event.

Thursday, July 4th, Independence Day was arrival day for reunion attendees. A late afternoon social hour was followed by dinner at a local golf club and viewing the village's fireworks display.

Friday, July 5th, the first full day for the reunion began with some participants exploring Lake Red Rock, a tour of the local historical society's extensive museum of over 20 buildings and the largest working windmill in the USA, just recently built in Holland and reconstructed in Pella. Viewing slides from the Bradley and overseas ports-o-call followed a social hour. A catered supper including delicious smoked Iowa pork chops, was followed by an evening of socializing and reminiscing. Some attendees enjoyed the hot tub before retiring for the evening.

Saturday, July 6 included a return trip to Lake Red Rock and the Visitor's Center for information on the area's wildlife as well as a trip to view various views of the Red Rock Dam that forms Lake Red Rock, a flood control measure constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. An afternoon social was the setting for the establishment of the USS Bradley Association. Various options for future reunions were discussed. Many favored a Caribbean cruise, perhaps during March of 2004. The group decided that a mailing list of former crewmembers would be developed. All those on the mailing list would receive a questionnaire regarding sites, duration and types of possible future reunion choices. Additional suggestions would also be solicited as well as information about former crewmembers, their spouses, girl friends, children, grandchildren, careers and interests. Much of this information would provide copy for future newsletters. A delicious dinner followed at the Udder Restaurant where we were treated to fresh, prime Iowa beef prepared to order. The evening concluded with a final social of reminiscences, laughter and good cheer.

Sunday, July 7th was the time for farewells, as the attendees bid one another so long until the next reunion.

Suggestions and ideas are welcome and encouraged. Information about other shipmates should be forwarded to Bruce Gottsch 20 Crambrook Road, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-3993 OR bgottsch@optonline.net. Coming in the Winter Newsletter 2002 – Reunion Survey and Crewmember Info Gathering. See you then!